



Fry's Readability Graph and Directions reproduced with permission from:

Fry, Edward. *Elementary Reading Instruction*. ©1977. The McGraw-Hill Companies.
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Directions for Use

- Randomly select three 100-word passages from a book or an article.
- Plot the average number of syllables and the average number of sentences per 100 words on the graph to determine the grade level of the material.
- Choose more passages per book if great variability is observed and conclude that the book has uneven readability.
- Few books will fall into the solid black area, but when they do, grade level scores are invalid.

Additional Directions for Working Readability Graph

- Randomly select three sample passages and count exactly 100 words beginning with the beginning of a sentence. Don't count numbers. Do count proper nouns.
 - Count the number of sentences in the hundred words, estimating length of the fraction of the last sentence to the nearest 1/10th.
 - Count the total number of syllables in the 100-word passage. If you don't have a hand counter available, an easy way is to simply put a mark above every syllable over one in each word, then, when you get to the end of the passage, count the number of marks and add 100.
 - Enter graph with average sentence length and number of syllables; plot dot where the two lines intersect. Area where dot is plotted will give you the approximate grade level.
 - If a great deal of variability is found, putting more sample counts into the average is desirable.
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Fry Graph for estimating Reading Ages (grade level)

Average number of SENTENCES per 100 words

25.0+
20.0
16.7
14.3
12.5
11.1
10.0
9.1
8.3
7.7
7.1
6.7
6.3
5.9
5.6
5.2
5.0
4.8
4.5
4.3
4.2
4.0
3.8
3.7
3.6
3.5
3.3
3.0
2.5
2.0

long
sentences

long words

Average number of SYLLABLES per 100 words

108 112 116 120 124 128 132 136 140 144 148 152 156 160 164 168 172

College